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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,154	01/31/2002	Lawrence A. Denenberg	23484-011	3555

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/066,154

Applicant(s)

DENENBERG ET AL

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-133 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-133 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                              | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weber (US Patent No. 6,434,524).

Weber discloses a system and method for interacting with objects, via a computer using utterances, speech processing and natural language processing.

2. Regarding claim 1, Weber discloses an apparatus, system and method implementing a general purpose computer (102) including associated memory (108) storage (col. 5, lines 27-29); a voice application platform ("voice interaction system) adapted for receiving a unit of input information from an application, said voice application platform including a speech recognizer (200) for recognizing speech as a function of said unit of input information (col. 4, lines 13-17); and a command processor (202) adapted for analyzing a first unit of input information by said voice application platform and identifying a characteristic of said first unit of input information received and for modifying said first unit of input information to form a modified first unit of input information (Figure 6, element 528) as a function of said characteristic (col. 3, lines 39-50).

Regarding claim 2, Weber discloses first unit of input information includes a grammar (212).

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Regarding claim 3, Weber discloses characteristic is indicative that said first unit of input information includes a set of terms and said first unit of input information is modified to produce said modified first unit of input information that includes at least one additional term not included in said first unit of input information (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 4, Weber discloses at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 5, Weber discloses at least one additional term can be part of a phrase within which at least one term in said set of terms can be used (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 6, Weber discloses at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 7, Weber discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 8, Weber discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term, whereby said first function is adapted to include in a response to be sent to said application, at least one term in said set of terms (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

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Regarding claim 9, Weber discloses first function is further adapted for substituting said at least one term in said set of terms for said at least one additional term in a response to be sent to said application (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 10, Weber discloses set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one additional term, whereby said first function is adapted to include, in a response to be sent to said application, a term selected from a memory as a function of said at least one additional term recognized by said voice application platform (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 11, Weber discloses term selected from a memory is associated with a user of said voice application platform (col. 10, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 12, Weber discloses command processor is connected to said speech recognizer and adapted for receiving user responses recognized by said speech recognizer and for modifying said user response if said response matches one of said additional terms of the modified first unit of input information (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 13, Weber discloses said first unit of input information includes a first type of input information associated with a first speech recognizer based upon a first speech recognition paradigm ("context-specific grammar") and said first unit of input information is modified to produce a second unit of input information which includes a second type of input information associated with a second speech recognizer based upon a second speech recognition

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paradigm (“general grammar”) which is different from said first speech recognition paradigm (col. 3, lines 8-11).

Regarding claim 14, Weber discloses said second unit of input information includes input information that is the speech equivalent to the input information in said first unit of input information with respect to the speech recognized (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 15, Weber discloses said first unit of input information represents a first set of terms and said second unit of input information represents a second set of terms and said first set of terms is a subset of said second set of terms (col. 3, lines 8-11).

Regarding claim 16, Weber discloses a prompt synthesizer (col. 12, lines 47-50) adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein said first unit of input information includes information representative of a prompt and said command processor receives said information representative of a prompt and said command processor modifies said first unit of input information as a function of said information representative of a prompt (col. 12, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 17, Weber discloses (col. 12, lines 45-59) a prompt synthesizer adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein information representative of a first prompt is received from said application and said voice application platform is adapted for presenting said first prompt to a user and a second prompt to said user.

3. Regarding claims 18-133: claims 18-133 are similar in scope and content to claims 1-17 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kuo et al (US Patent No. 6,418,440) discloses a system and method for performing automated dynamic dialogue generation).

Kendall et al (US Patent No. 5,995,918) discloses a system and method for creating a language grammar using a spreadsheet or table interface.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Angela A Armstrong  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2654

AAA  
October 2, 2005

*Angela A. Armstrong*